

## ASKS WHY 'ROYALTY' IN U. S. DODGED WAR

Johnson of South Dakota Asks Administration and Its Friends.

### ARMY BILL SLASHED HARD

Many Amendments, Mostly Unimportant, Brought Out by Debate.

Special Dispatch to The Sun.  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The House indulged in a field day of criticism against the treatment of enlisted men in the army during debate on the military bill today, a debate which took the direction of affairs largely from the Military Committee and brought about numerous amendments, unimportant in themselves except as indications of the temper of the members generally.

By far the most direct and personal attack upon the Administration and the President to which the House has listened for months was a feature of the speech by Representative Royal Johnson (S. D.), a former officer in the American Expeditionary Forces. Mr. Johnson declared that no relative of any member of the Administration nor any close friend of a member of the Administration has been permitted to endanger his life in the recent war, and ended his criticism:

"I dislike to criticize, because it is so easy, but I cannot help realizing that there were but two royal families in the war who never suffered nor appeared in the casualty lists—the royal family of Germany and the other royal and reigning families of the United States. If I am wrong I hope some one will stop me and set me right."

### No One Sets Him Right.

No one "set him right," and so far as correction is concerned his criticism met with a "thunderous silence."

Representative Scott Ferris (Okla.), chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, replied to the flood of criticism with a warning that the continued assaults by members of the House against the administration of military affairs would have a bad influence upon the soldiers returning to civil life. His warning had no appreciable effect upon his colleagues on the Democratic side or upon the Republican members.

In a number of instances appropriations were slashed with little or no regard to the requirements of the items for which they were intended. Thus, the appropriation for grounds for cantonments was eliminated on a point of order, and the appropriations for the general paragraph were reduced from \$4,000,000 to \$2,000,000.

By an amendment to the item for army transportation hastily written and adopted, army officers would be forbidden to ride in army automobiles, though a similar prohibition would not obtain in the case of enlisted men.

An amendment by Representative McKee (Okla.) was adopted, forbidding the use of any money appropriated for public buildings in Washington if any officer or enlisted man in the army shall at any future time be forbidden to communicate with a Senator or member of Congress. An amendment by Representative Watson (Penn.) arbitrarily reduced the appropriation for horses from \$100,000 to \$10,000, while the general item for army transportation was cut from \$449,000 to \$411,000.

Representative Johnson's speech came as the climax to several unimportant attempts to have small legislative riders inserted for the correction of abuses generally criticized on the floor. All of these had been knocked out on points of order.

After declaring that he would "come up smiling" as often as the Administration steam roller in the House flattened him out in his efforts to help the doughboys, Mr. Johnson said:

"It is impossible to get anything for the doughboys from this Administration because no son or relative of any one intimately connected with this Administration was allowed to fight. This is a broad statement, and I am waiting here now for any of those spokesmen who always represent the Administration to point out one relative of any one closely connected with the Administration who was there or who appears on any casualty list."

### Bad Ruling for Clean Boys.

"It is a shame that these clean cut American boys were prevented by their fathers or mothers and the Administration here at Washington from getting into the fight as they would have preferred to have done. Some of the relatives of the wives of the Cabinet officers were wonderful men and performed wonderful service and I desire to eliminate them from this statement."

"The son of one of the Cabinet members, who has been very prolific in his statement that the world must be made safe for democracy, allowed his son to chase submarines on Chesapeake Bay, and finally on September 3 landed at Bordeaux, France, and was sent to a town forty miles from there for training. I know this boy and he is a real boy and wanted to get into the fight."

### Snubbed to Guard Col. House.

"But would they let him? I should say not. Within a week after his arrival that great Colonel of the American Expeditionary Forces, Col. House, asked for him to come to Paris and go on the Colonel's staff, and after a short trip to Germany to collect souvenirs he is now carefully guarding the person of the Colonel from any intrusion."

After referring to another Cabinet officer's son, who was not even permitted to put to sea, Representative Johnson continued:

"Yet to be fair, I will say that there is one exception in the son-in-law of the President, who enlisted in the U. S. M. C. A., and if I remember correctly was somewhere in France for two or three years. The newspapers reported that a shell fell within a few yards of him, greatly jeopardizing his future career. They would not even allow my little nephew, one of the bravest young men that ever wore uniform, and whom you all remember as a former commissioner of the District of Columbia, to get within the smell of powder. They sent him as the official chaperon of the President's daughter when she began singing for the doughboys, and when the poor kids were lined up all tired out from the work of the day, and forced to attend the service."

After criticizing severely the conditions in the Administration brought out before the Senate committee by Gen. Ansell, Mr. Johnson said:

"I am not criticizing the Secretary of War, for I do not think he is responsible for the system. The system grew up and made it possible for these boys to be sent out, and makes it possible for thousands of other boys in France and the United States to be sentenced as these men were."

"Why? Because the Administration which controls legislation at this time will not let it come before this House."

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